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Letter dated 28 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 26 October 1998, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 27 and 28 October 1998.

On 27 October 12 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (8 F-16), 1 CN-235, 1 aircraft of unknown type and 2 KC-135) entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations. Six F-16 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction. One CN-235, as well as the unknown-type aircraft, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostle Andreas. The two KC-135 exited the Nicosia flight information region in a south-easterly direction.

In addition to the above-mentioned violations, and on that same day, four F-4, mentioned in my previous letter of 26 October 1998, entered once more the Nicosia flight information region, in violation of international air traffic regulations before exiting in a south-easterly direction.

On 28 October 29 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (16 F-16, 6 F-4, 2 RF-4, 1 CN-235, 1 GULFSTREAM and 3 KC-135) entered the northern Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. Eight F-16 and four F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-easterly direction. The GULFSTREAM and the CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostle Andreas. Two F-4 and the two RF-4 exited the Nicosia flight information region towards the Ankara flight information region. Eight F-16 and the three KC-135 exited the Nicosia flight information region in a south-easterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. The frequency, intensity and large number of aircraft involved in the above violations are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore these continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative